37.   [Added]   A system for signaling content quality of preexisting data, to a digital receiver, the preexisting data having at least one record, the at least one record having at least one data field, the system comprising:

assignment means for assigning a grade indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting data for at least one or more predefined sets of criteria; and,

means for marking the preexisting data with the assigned grade without changing the content of the preexisting data;

wherein the digital receiver dynamically accesses the marked grade of the data to determine suitability for subsequent use of the preexisting data without having to access the preexisting data.

38.   [Added]   The system as recited in claim 37 further comprising means for associating a portion of a filename to the grade.

39.   [Added]   The system as recited in claim 38 wherein the filename corresponds to a file containing the preexisting data.

40.   [Added]   The system as recited in claim 37 further comprising means for associating a grade file with the grade.

41.   [Added]   The system as recited in claim 37 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular data field of the at least one data field.

42. [Added] The system as recited in claim 37 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular record of the at least one record.

43. [Added] The system as recited in claim 42 wherein a particular quality of the content corresponds to a particular record of the at least one record.

44. [Added] The system as recited in claim 42 wherein a particular quality of the content corresponds to a particular field of the at least one particular field.

45. [Added] The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content is a predefined function.

46. [Added] The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content accesses a database.

47. [Added] The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content is an externally defined function.

48. [Added] The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content uses access to an independent database.

49.   [Added]   The system as recited in claim 37 wherein the grade is a numeric value, a color, or a Boolean.

50.   [Added]   The system as recited in claim 37 further comprising means for associating the grade to a data set.

51.   [Added]   The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality is selected by the receiver.

52.   [Added]   The system as recited in claim 37 further comprising means for assigning a rating as a function of the grade.

53.   [Added]   The system as recited in claim 37 wherein a different one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality provides a different grade for the preexisting data.

54.   [Added]   A method for signaling content quality of preexisting data, to a digital receiver, the preexisting data having at least one record, the at least one record having at least one data field, the method comprising the following steps:

    assigning a grade indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting data for at least one or more predefined sets of criteria; and,

    marking the preexisting data with the assigned grade without changing the content of the preexisting data;

wherein the digital receiver dynamically accesses the marked grade of the data to determine suitability for subsequent use of the preexisting data without having to access the preexisting data.

55.   [Added]   The method as recited in claim 54 further comprising the step of associating a portion of a filename to the grade.

56.   [Added]   The system as recited in claim 55 wherein the filename corresponds to a file containing the preexisting data.

57.   [Added]   The method as recited in claim 54 further comprising the step of associating a grade file with the grade.

58.   [Added]   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular data field of the at least one data field.

59.   [Added]   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular record of the at least one record.

60.   [Added]   The system as recited in claim 59 wherein a particular quality of the content corresponds to a particular record of the at least one record.

61.   [Added]   The system as recited in claim 59 wherein a particular quality of the content corresponds to a particular field of the at least one particular field.

62.   [Added]   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content is a predefined function.

63.   [Added]   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content accesses a database.

64.   [Added]   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content is an externally defined function.

65.   [Added]   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content uses access to an independent database.

66.   [Added]   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein the grade is a numeric value, a color, or a Boolean.

67.   [Added]   The method as recited in claim 54 further comprising the step of associating the grade to a data set.

68.   [Added]   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality is selected by the receiver.

69.   [Added]   The method as recited in claim 54 further comprising the step of assigning a rating as a function of the grade.

70.   [Added]   The method as recited in claim 54 wherein a different one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality provides a different grade for the preexisting data.